

How to make a solar oven

You don't need solar panels to see the power of the sun at work. Make a solar oven and make yourself some treats using natural heat!

What you will need

- Pizza box (used or new)
- Aluminium foil
- Black construction paper
- Plastic sandwich wrap
- Glue and sticky tape
- Scissors
- Pen

What to do

Step 1. Make a flap in the lid of the pizza box by drawing a square 2 cm from the edges on the lid of the pizza box. Cut along the front edge and the sides. Do NOT cut the back edge. Fold the flap open (see Diagram 1). This flap will be used to reflect light into your pizza box.

Step 2. Cover the inside of the flap with aluminium foil (see Diagram 2).

Step 3. Sticky tape some plastic sandwich wrap over the now open square of the top of the pizza box lid – this will help the heat stay in your oven (see Diagram 2).

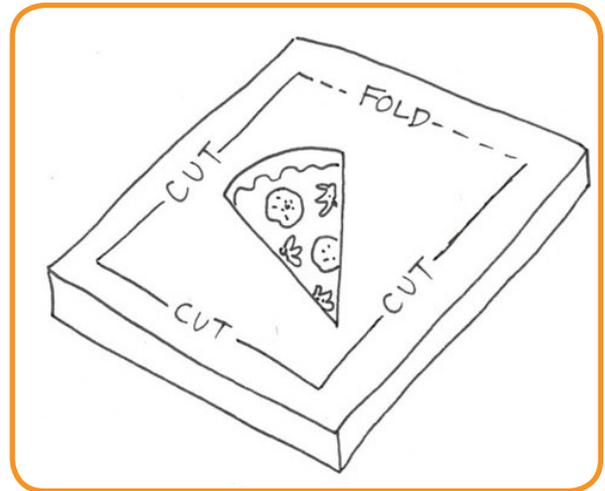


Diagram 1. Cut a flap in the lid, keeping one side uncut.



Diagram 2. Cover the hole with plastic wrap and the flap with foil.

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Step 4. Cut a square piece of black construction paper and glue it to the inside base of the box (see Diagram 3). Make sure all the joints are sealed properly – you want the heat to build up inside the box, not escape through the gaps. You can now close the pizza box and get ready for some cooking!

Step 5. Take your pizza box oven outside to a sunny spot. Position your reflective flap so it reflects the sunlight into the oven (you may need to move the oven around as you cook to accommodate the moving sun). You will need to prop the lid open with a stick – you should be able to see the ray of sunlight being reflected by the foil into the oven.

Step 6. Now you're ready for cooking! Place some food inside your oven (e.g. cheese on toast or marshmallows) and watch it warm up!

SAFETY WARNING: The oven and food will get very hot, as high as 35°C even on a chilly day. Supervise children at all times around the oven and instruct them not to touch.

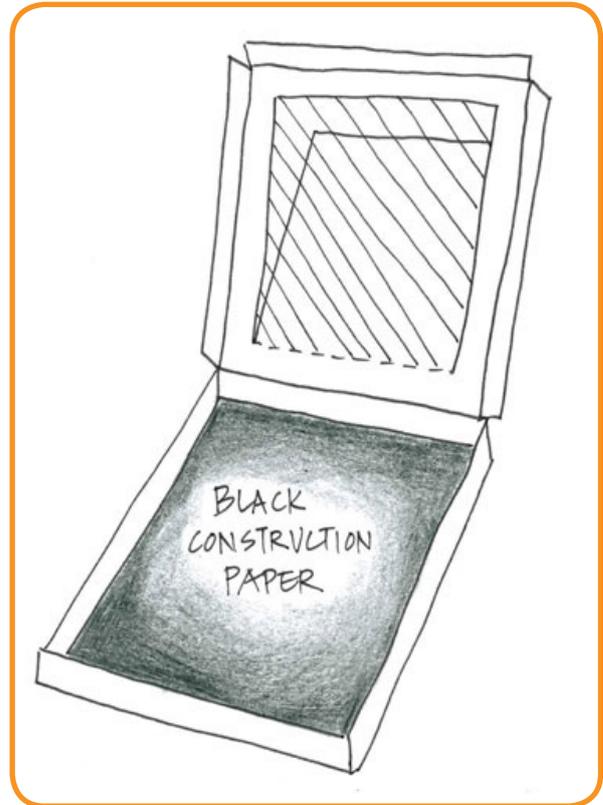


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